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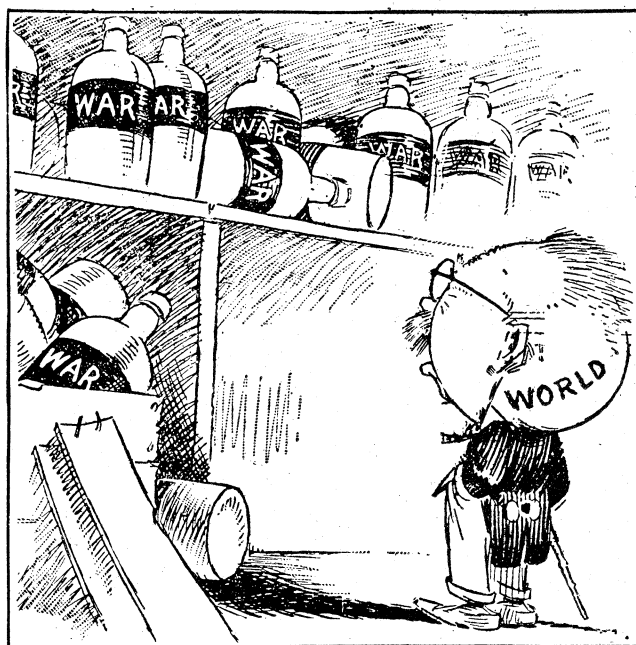
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IT IS WELL

THE TREATIES of peace negotiated by President Harding between this country and Germany, Austria, and Hungary, the first signed in Berlin August 25, and ratified with overwhelming majorities by both branches of the German Government, passed the United States Senate October 18, sixty-six voting for the German treaty, twenty against. Austria has ratified the treaty, and Hungary will do the same upon the opening of her parliament, about November 1. When ratifications have been exchanged and the treaties proclaimed, there remain only the appointment of ambassadors and the opening of consular relationships to place the United States and her former enemies upon their pre-war footing of friendly intercourse. Whatever objections have been or may be raised to the terms of the treaties, we feel that the end will amply justify the means. The economic, political, and moral condition of the world is chaotic and distressing. One necessary step toward recovery from this situation is the return to amicable trade and political relations between the United States and the Central Powers. These treaties will make that more nearly possible.

It has been difficult to follow the opposition to the treaties. The charge that they are unintelligible in themselves is, we believe, a lawyer's quibble. If it were true that they mean an appointment by the United States of a representative upon the Reparations Commission, and therefore a fatal step into the whirlpool of the Treaty of Versailles, we could quite understand and, indeed, appreciate the opposition of such men as Mr. Borah. The fact, however, is that if the United States should appoint a member upon the Reparations Commission it could be done only with the advice and consent of the Congress. Surely, the Congress ought to be able to trust itself. We do not take the view that the United States, under the terms of the present treaties, is trying to "grab" anything. It is unmistakably a fact that the United States has certain claims against Germany, some of them pre-war claims and some of them claims arising from events transpiring during the war. It is proper that the United States should keep itself in position to present these claims at the proper time and in the proper way. It is no criticism of the treaties that they do not cover all possible contingencies that may arise in the future relations between this country and Europe. Neither are we of the opinion that the Woodrow Wilson Democracy of New York City is rendering any service to right thinking in America by harking back to views expressed a year or more ago by men faced with the problem of drawing political platforms in Chicago or San Francisco. Time does make ancient good uncouth, and the necessity for action sometimes makes

the fear of inconsistency itself an evil. The treaties just passed end the technical war, avoid embarrassing concessions, exclude the Covenant of the League of Nations, and lead toward normal relations between the United States and her former enemies. They do no violence to the traditional policies of this government and involve us not at all in that seething cauldron of interminable broils peculiar to Europe. It is well that the treaties are an accomplished fact.



LOSING CONFIDENCE IN THE OLD NOSTRUM

"I've taken a lot of that medicine without getting rid of my troubles."—*Brown in the Chicago Daily News.*

HOW THE REDUCTION OF ARMAMENTS MAY LESSEN THE CHANCES OF WAR

THE WORLD is beginning to see the gray break of the morning after the night before. It has had a wild experience, expensive withal. As they come to their senses and feel of their pocket-books, the nations discover that they are both sick and bankrupt, their pockets empty, their debts staggering, and their jobs gone. The night of drunkenness, lasting through seven long years, has left them ill indeed and sore distressed.

Sobering up, they inquire about the things that must be done. The one least injured by the wild debauch, namely, the United States of America, has shown the way. It has spoken the sane word. To the ones most vitally concerned it has said two things, namely: We must reduce our expenses; we must sign the pledge. Surely that sounds like good advice.